SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

June 13th, 2021

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory."

(**Psalm 24:10**)

JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

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SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

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Servicio en español domingos 6 p.m. y martes 7 p.m.

"We are privileged to have many, many faithful gospel preachers, pastors of local churches, proven to be *'faithful ministers of the new covenant'*…few people in the world have the privilege of having so many faithful servants of God as near to them as we have. Very few have the privilege of knowing and regularly hearing so many gospel preachers. See that you *'esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves'* (1 Thessalonians 5:13). Know them, cherish them; esteem them highly, pray for them, love them, and let them know that you do" — Don Fortner

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Welcome

Sinners are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it you are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

You are all invited to gather with the brethren at Lincoln Wood Baptist Church, Sunday evening at 6 PM, June 13th, 2021 to a gospel meeting to thank the LORD for our brother and missionary Walter Groover. We *glorify God* in our brother, in sending him with *the word of truth*, *the gospel of* our *salvation* [Galatians 1:24, Ephesians 1:13].

Happy Birthday!
Levi Cortney, June 8th
James Hicks, June 11th
Micah Borders, June 16th

Resources

Be sure to visit our websites for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

Grace Articles

Salvation is of the LORD

"… Salvation is of the LORD" (**Jonah 2:9**)

This great truth was declared by Jonas the prophet of God, being in the belly of a great fish. What this prophet said is what God's word says, from Genesis to Revelation, *"Salvation is from the Lord."* What does this statement mean? That God is the only one who saves. That God begins salvation in the sinner. He sustains it and He Himself will finish it (Philippians 1:6). The sinner doesn't do something to begin his salvation nor does he do something to finish his salvation. All salvation is from God, by His grace and for His eternal glory.

Dear reader, pay attention to what the Word of God says: *"Salvation is of Jehovah,"* it is of His free and sovereign will (Romans 9:13-16). He decides who to love and who to save. The sinner does not decide for his salvation. God is the one who decides for the sinner's salvation (John 5:40; Romans 3:10-12). It is by His grace and His sovereign mercy (2 Timothy 1:9). It is not by works, nor human merit, or right—rather, it is by His eternal and sovereign love (Ephesians 1:1-7). All spiritual and eternal blessing is for Christ's sake and by His redemptive finished work on the cross (John 19:30).

Dear reader, meditate on these points that follow: why doesn't God save everyone? You have heard people say that God is good, and that in the end He is not going to condemn anyone to hell. If you believe that, you will be condemned to hell. God is sovereign and He will decide who will be saved and who will not (Romans 9:13, 15-16). For example: one thief was saved and one was abandoned (Luke 23: 39-43). God in His eternal love has chosen those who will be saved and they will be saved. For His chosen, God the Father gave His Son to be their substitute (John 6:37, 39). God the Son gave His life to rescue them, many in the world, all of them chosen of God the Father (Matthew 20:28). God the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the Gospel, effectively calls the elect to be saved (John 6:44, 2 Timothy 1:9).

Why doesn't everyone who hears the gospel believe? (Isaiah 53:11) Because God does not reveal Himself to everyone. He reveals Himself to whom He wants to (Matthew 11:27). God is Sovereign and grants His gifts to whomever He wants to (2 Thessalonians 3:2; Romans 11:29). He gives spiritual life to the sinner dead in his sins and trespasses (Ephesians 2:1). He gives spiritual eyes, and spiritual ears, so that His sheep hear His voice and believe on Christ (John 10:26-27). All of this is by His grace and for His glory (Ephesians 2: 8-9).

Who are the ones who will be saved? (Acts 13:48). Those who are ordained for this salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:28-30). They will believe when they hear the Gospel, they will repent of their sins, they will come seeking refuge in Christ, they will rest by faith in His blood, and they will be saved from all condemnation (Romans 1:17; 8:1). All those ordained for eternal life will be saved, not one more, not one less (John 6:39).

Dear reader, what you have read is The Word of God, and This Word will never change; just as the Author is eternal and unchanging, so is His Word. He commands us to believe His beloved Son; obey this command and you will be saved (1 John 3:23; John 3:18, 36). — José Dzúl

"Bring forth the best robe..."

"…Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:" (**Luke 15:22**)

Nothing but the love of God could have provided the best robe. Our Lord did not come and suffer in the sinner's stead to obtain the love of God. He came and died because of the love of God. *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He* [first] *loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"* (1John 4:10). … Oh, if we could ever get hold of this truth, *"the love of God,"* how it would break these hearts of stone. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son."* The best robe, God's love provided it — The righteousness of Christ. — David Pledger

Save, LORD!

"Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call" (**Psalm 20:9**)

"Save, LORD!" just two words—what a blessing it is to cry that out from a heart opened by Him! LORD save me else I perish! [Acts 16:14].

Dear reader, do you know who cries it out from the heart? Only those who are made to see their desperate need of salvation; those who see that they are evil sinners before God. Lord save me! Save, LORD! For who else can save me? [Matthew 7:11, Luke 11:13].

My friend, the LORD is able to save to the uttermost, all them that come unto God by His King [Hebrews 7:25]. Heavenly Father have mercy on me! *"Let the King* [thy King, the Lord Jesus Christ] *hear us when we call!"*

Gracious heavenly Father, let the King hear us when we call. Lord Jesus, save us, deliver us, redeem us. Lord Jesus hear us when we call upon thee! And not because our call merits your attention—but rather, because your Father delights to show mercy to sinners! Reader, I only have good news for sinners, for *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"* (1 Timothy 1:15).

Beloved, our God pardons iniquity and passes by the transgression of His people. Indeed, He doesn't retain His anger for ever because He delights to show mercy. He will turn again; He will have compassion upon us (His chosen people); He will subdue our iniquities and will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Amen! [Micah 7:18-19]—Pastor

Not of Works

"…by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves…" (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

The longer I live, the more I am convinced that, if ever you are saved, grace must save you; and if ever I am saved, grace must save me. It is not of works, lest any man should boast. [Reader] it is a very narrow way to heaven, and none can be rightly in the path except by God's grace. Nor can they keep there, except by grace [1 Peter 1:5]. What debtors we are to grace! [Matthew 7:14] God has been a kind and good God to me, in various ways, for more than sixty-one years. How little gratitude for such great blessings in upholding, keeping and preserving us to the present moment! [1 Peter 1:5]. If we know that it is a mercy to be out of hell, we have no room for boasting. What a precious Savior Christ is to those who really need Him!—William Tiptaft